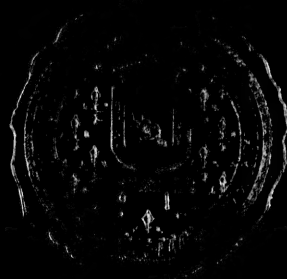
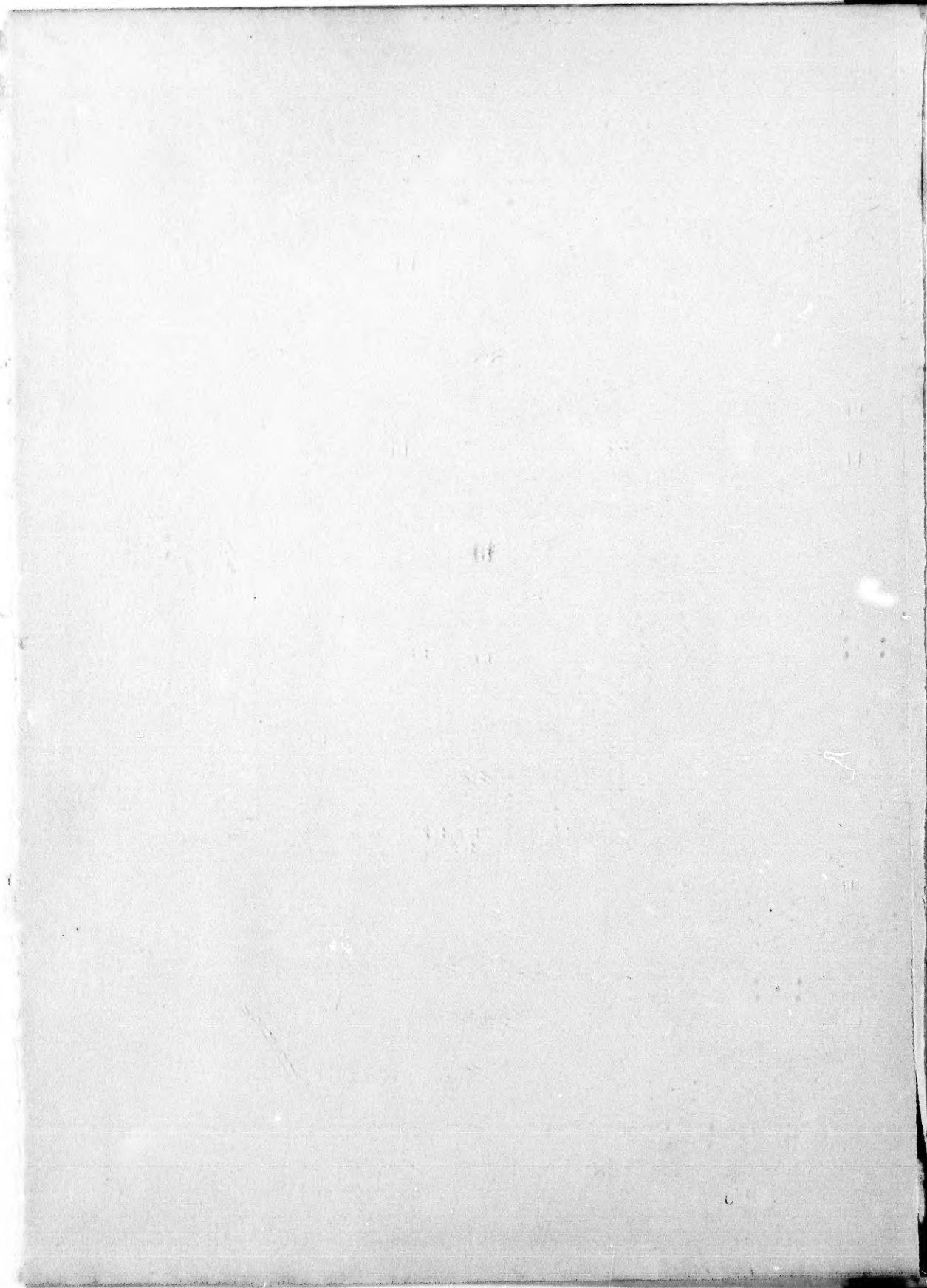


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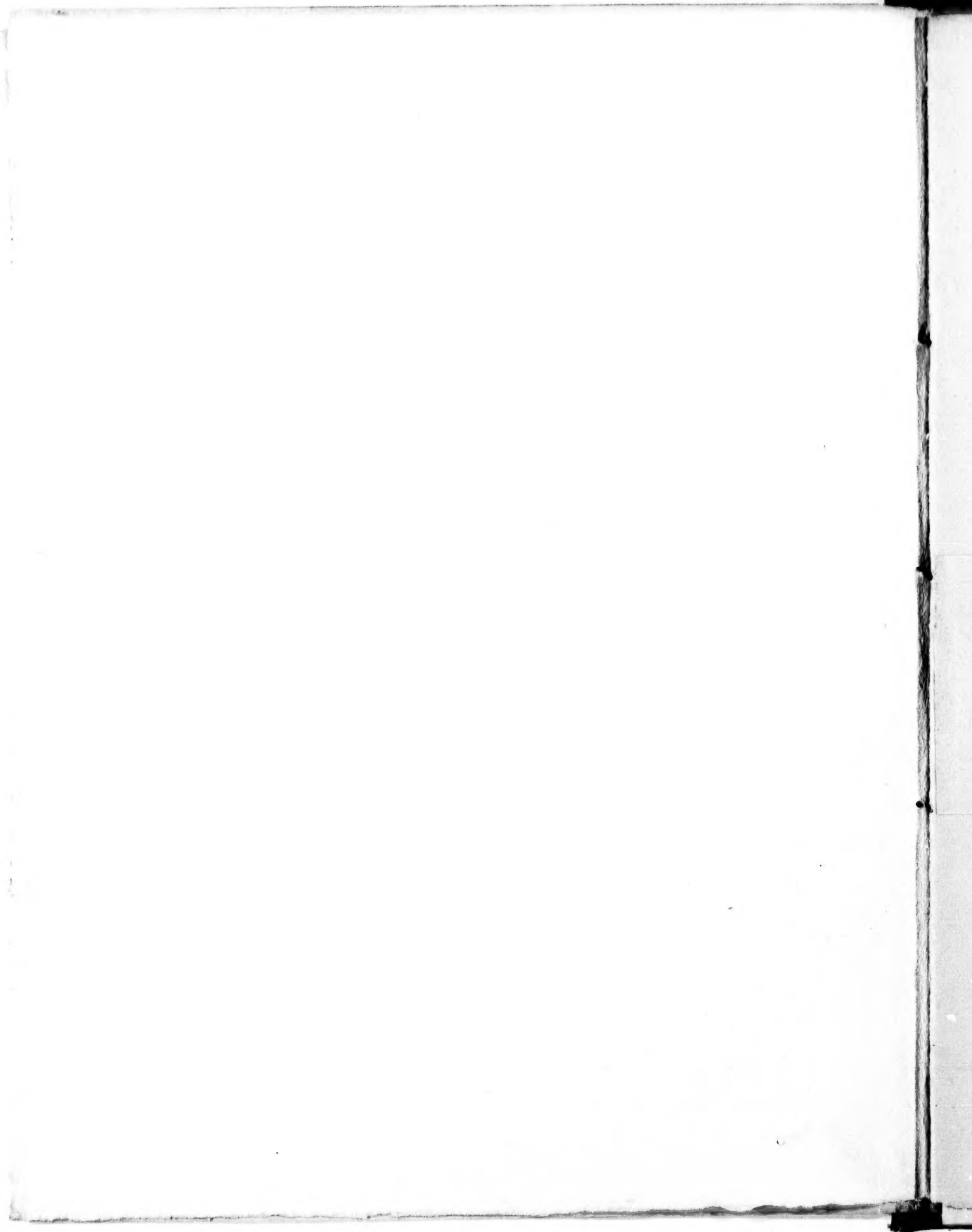


Society of Colonial Wars
in the State of New York

Battle of Lake George

September 8th, 1755

1897



Account of the
Battle of Lake George
September 8th, 1755

Compiled by the Committee on Historical
Documents and Lake George Memorial
Committee of the Society of Colonial
Wars in the State of New York

The Lake George Memorial Committee requests each member of the Society who had an ancestor, or relative, in the Battle of Lake George to prepare a brief sketch of his life and services in this battle, giving references, so far as possible, to printed authorities. These sketches should be sent to

MORRIS P. FERRIS,
Secretary of Committee,
38 Park Row,
New York.

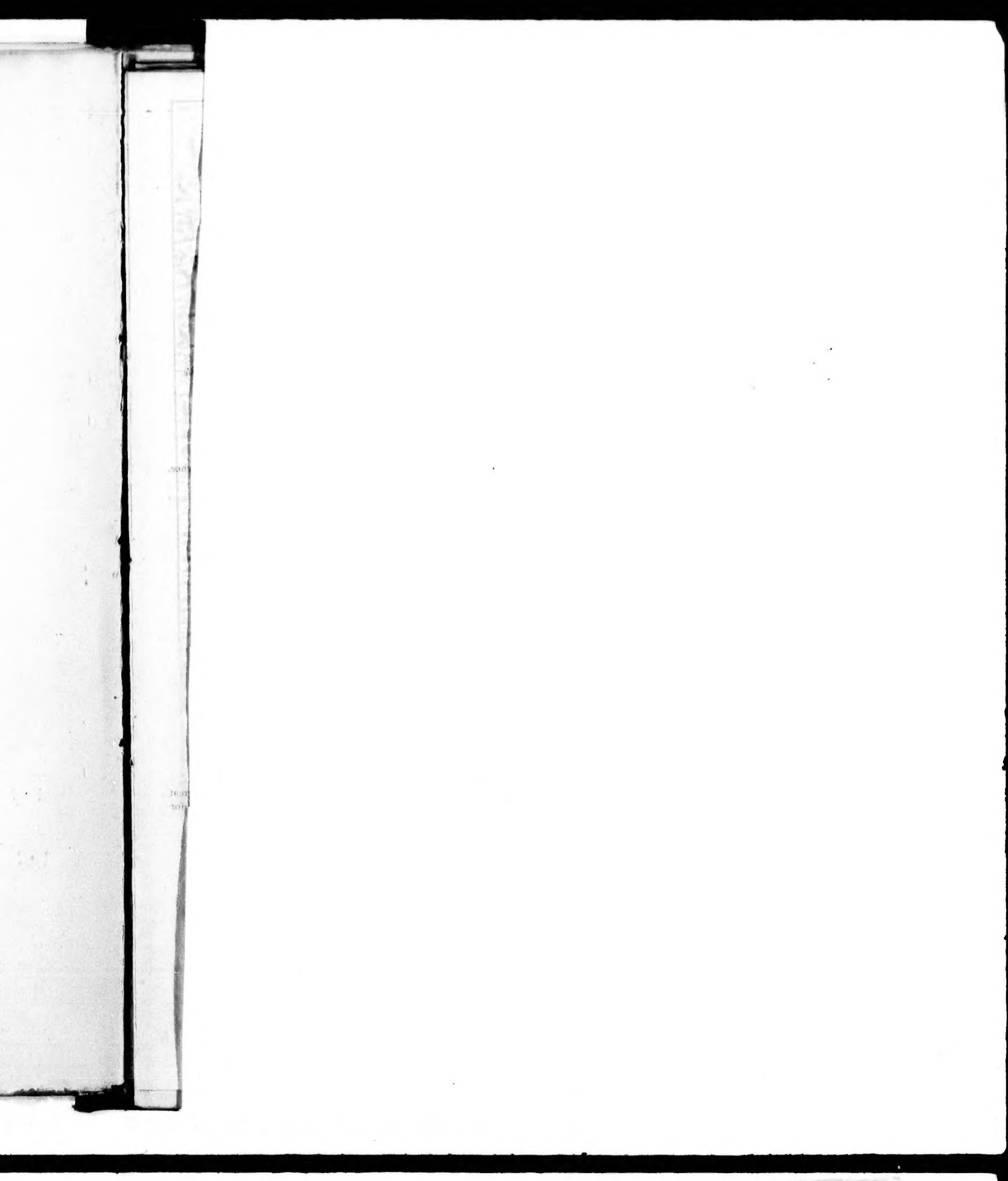
New York
April, 1897

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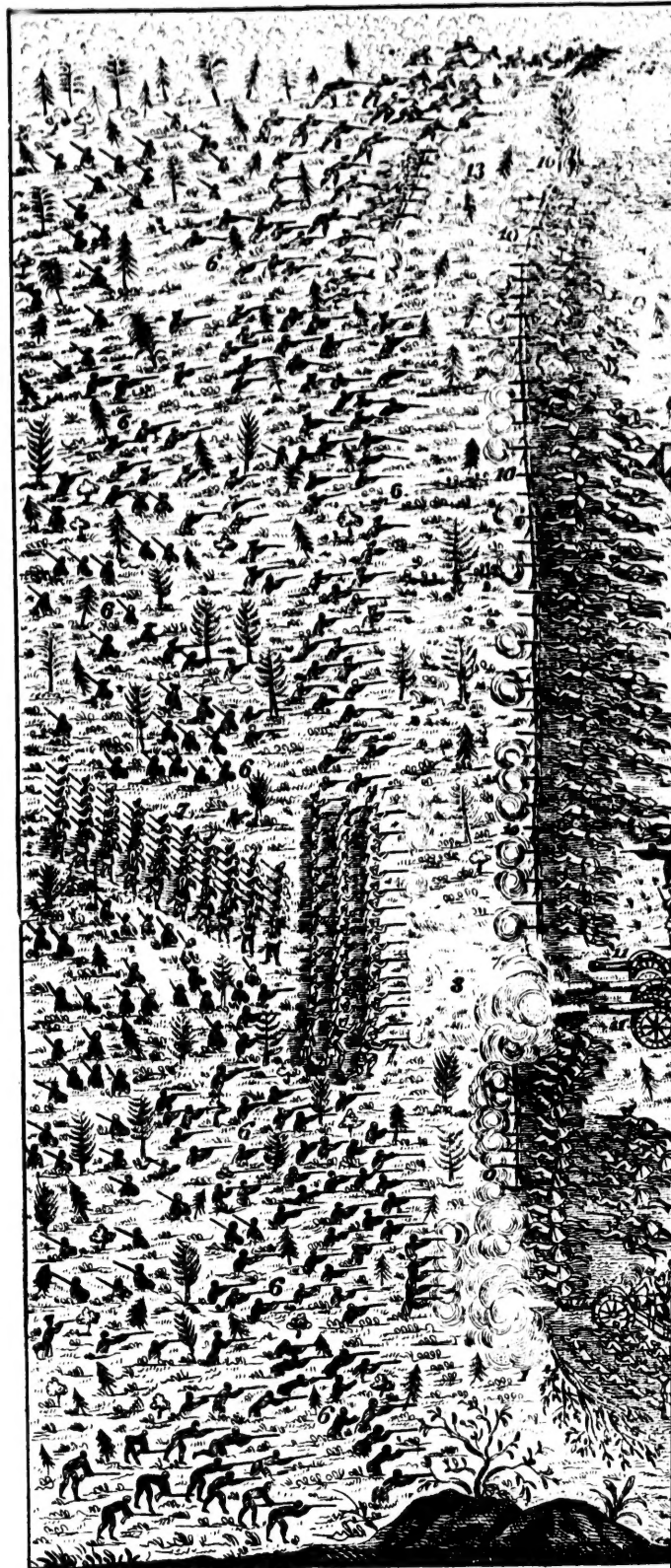
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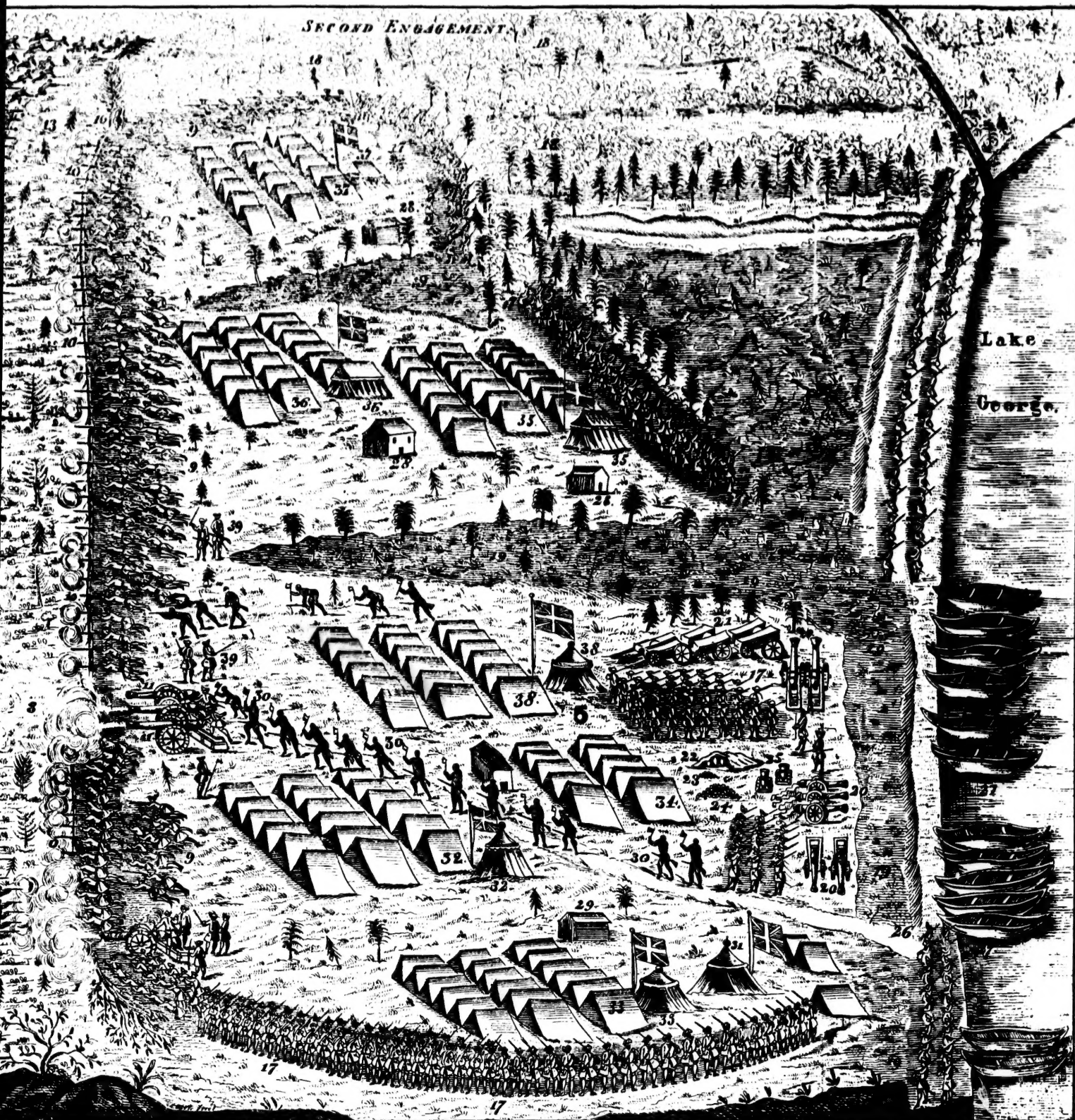
References to Samuel Blodgett's Map of the
Second Engagement.

5. *Site of proposed Monument—Memorial of Battle.*
6. Canadians and Indians.
7. French regulars attacking the centre.
8. The road.
9. Provincials in action posted in front.
10. The trees felled for the breastworks.
11. Cannon.
12. A cannon posted "advantageously" on the eminence.
13. Place where Dieskau fell.
- 14-15. Canadians' attack.
16. The man that shot Dieskau.
17. Reserves.
18. Woods and swamps.
19. Morass.
20. Cannon defending the flank.
21. Baggage wagons.
- 22-23-24. Stores and ammunition.
25. Mortars.
26. Road to the Lake.
- 27-28-29. Store-houses.
30. Mohawks.
31. Gen'l Johnson's tent.
32. Lyman's Regiment.
33. Col. Harris's Company.
34. Col. Cockroft.
35. Col. Williams.
36. Col. Ruggles.
37. Col. Titcomb.
38. Col. Guttridge.
39. Officers.

The map, besides being very unique, possesses great historical value. Blodgett appears to have been a sutler for the rangers. His name occurs three years after.



SECOND ENGAGEMENT



Preface and Appeal.

THE Committee on Historical Documents and the Lake George Memorial Committee have prepared the following brief sketch of the Battle of Lake George, to refresh the minds and to arouse the interest of the members of the Society of Colonial Wars in that most important Colonial event.

The pen picture has been supplemented by copies of contemporary maps showing the exact location of the opposing forces. In addition, a hitherto unpublished return of the "killed, wounded, and missing" has been given, which was procured from Captain Ephraim Williams, U. S. A., a member of the Committee, and a great grand-nephew of Col. Ephraim Williams, who was killed in the action at the head of his troops.

The erection of a suitable monument in commemoration of the Battle of Lake George, is a work which should appeal to every Colonial Warrior, and particularly to members of the New York Society. There are few events of the French and Indian Wars which took place on New York soil, and fewer still of importance, where we can commemorate a victory.

The Caldwell Village Improvement Association has agreed to furnish the site without expense to us. It will be on the battle ground itself, close by the old Military Road, which still exists. The Association is endeavoring to secure the entire battlefield for preservation as a public park.

The artotype of the proposed monument speaks for itself. The design for the statue illustrates the incident of the Indian, Hendrick, demonstrating to General Johnson the danger of dividing his forces.

The monument is to be about forty feet high, and, standing at the head of the Lake, midway between the two sides, will be seen for many miles, and will be distinctly in view to all travellers at Lake George by steamboat and rail.

We commemorate a most important event, and we should do it worthily. The Society may be sure that the money solicited by the Committee will be well applied.

We appeal to you to subscribe at once and as generously as possible, so that the sculptor may proceed with the work expeditiously. It is calculated that the preparation of the monument will consume about a year and a half, and it is the desire of the Committee to dedicate it on the anniversary of the victory, September 8th, 1898, and to have the dedication one of most imposing ceremony, to be ever memorable in the annals of the Society.

Committee on Historical Documents.

Abraham B. Valentine, Historian, Chairman Ex-Officio.

Edward F. Delancey,	Isaac Myer,
Henry Harmon Noble,	Edward Trenchard,
J. Bleecker Miller.	

Lake George Memorial Committee.

Howland Pell, Chairman.

Frederic J. De Peyster,	Frederick Clarkson,
Captain Ephraim Williams,	Abraham Bates Valentine,
George Comstock Baker,	Cyrus Kingsbury Remington,
George May Elwood,	Colonel Frederick D. Grant,
Philip Livingston,	Philip Rhinelanders,
Madison Grant,	Edgar Cottrell Leonard,

Morris Patterson Ferris, Secretary,
38 Park Row, New York.

Subscriptions should be sent to

Frederick Clarkson, Esq., Treasurer,
Lake George Memorial Committee,
Care Society of Colonial Wars,
45 William Street, New York.



LAKE GEORGE MEMORIAL.

DESIGNED BY
ALBERT WEINERT

Battle of Lake George.

IN 1754, a grand expedition against the French was planned, which was to utterly extinguish all their rights in America. General Edward Braddock was made Commander-in-Chief, with Governor Shirley and Sir William Pepperrell next in command.

The French forts in Arcadia were to be taken, Crown Point reduced, the French driven from the Ohio Valley, and Fort Niagara possessed by the English.

The first great effort made by General Braddock against Fort Du Quesne resulted so disastrously, that it was only the skill and courage of Colonel George Washington, which saved the defeated army from total annihilation at the hands of the French and their Indian allies.

General Shirley's forces were so dismayed by the news from Braddock, that the expedition against Fort Niagara, which had been placed in his hands, was abandoned.

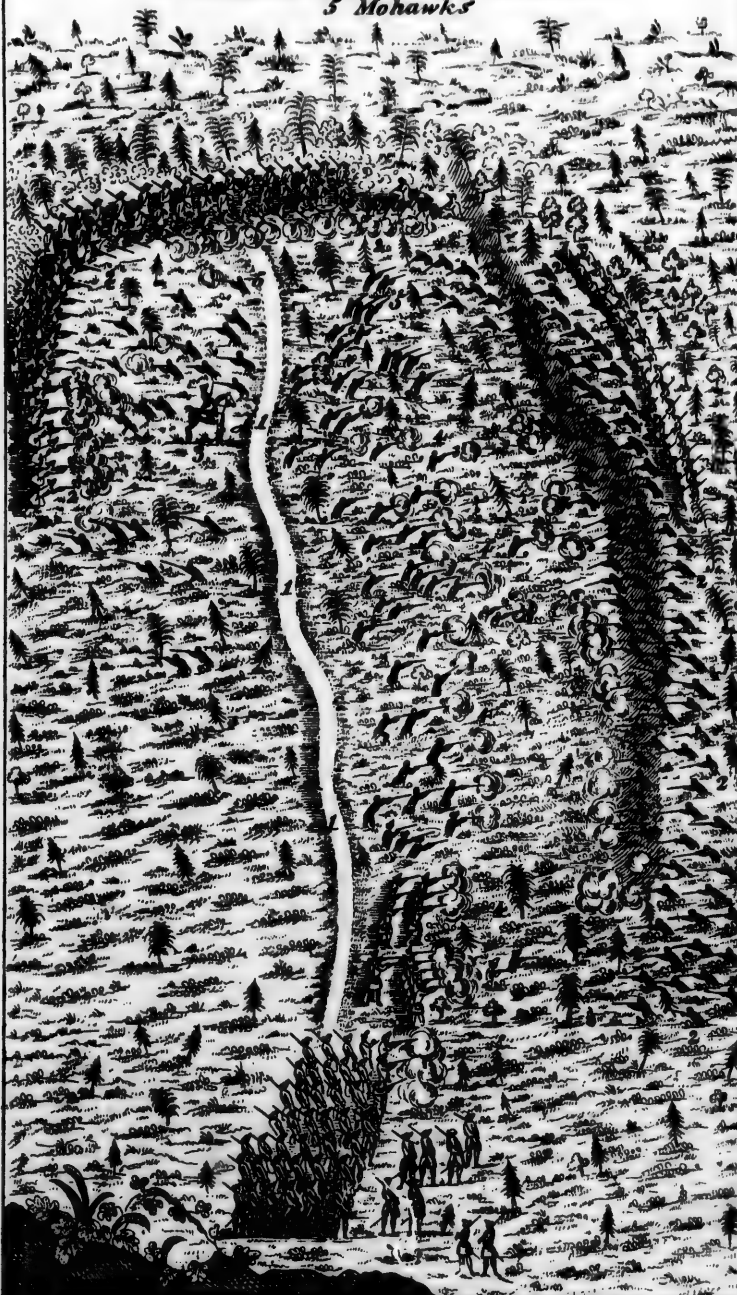
Colonel William Johnson, an Irishman, who, coming to America in 1738 to manage the large estates of his uncle, Sir Peter Warren, in the Mohawk Valley, had ingratiated himself with the Mohawk Indians, and possessed enormous influence over them, was appointed Major-General to lead the expedition against Crown Point. Albany was selected as the rendezvous, and the troops from the different colonies gathered there. Among the officers, taking part in the expedition, afterwards distinguished, were Major-General Phineas Lyman, Colonels Ephraim Williams, Timothy Ruggles, Lieutenant-Colonels, Nathan Whiting, Seth Pomeroy, Captains Philip Schuyler, and Israel Putnam.

About the first of August, Major-General Lyman led the advance up the river and commenced building a large fort, first named Lyman, afterwards Fort Edward, in honor of Edward, brother of George the Third, and a few days later, General Johnson left Albany with the remainder of the troops, artillery and stores, accompanied by King Hendrick and his Mohawk warriors. A report reaching the General that the French were concentrated at Fort St. Frederick (Crown Point) with an army of six thousand men, and intended to fortify Ticonderoga (the short carry between Lake Champlain and Lake St. Sacrament), a council of War at once decided that the advance should be made along the road to St. Sacrament. General Johnson reached there with the first fifteen hundred men on the 28th, and immediately went into camp at the head of the Lake, which he rechristened Lake George, in honor of his Majesty and to assert his right of dominion there.

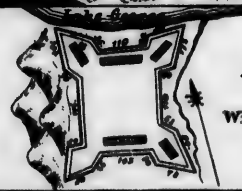
On the third of September the Baron de Dieskau, Commander of the French forces in Canada, moved down from Fort St. Frederick to Ticonderoga to begin work on the line of fortifications, which he purposed establishing southward. Information coming of the building of Fort Lyman, he at once embarked with a detachment of two hundred and sixty French Grenadiers, eight hundred Canadians and seven hundred Indians, sailing down Lake Champlain in canoes to South Bay, thence marching across the country, encamping within a league of Fort Lyman on the evening of the 7th, intending to surprise the Fort the next day. The Indian chiefs were called together to be informed of the plan of attack and to be assigned their positions. They retired for consultation, and soon returned with the statement that the Iroquois (numbering three hundred)



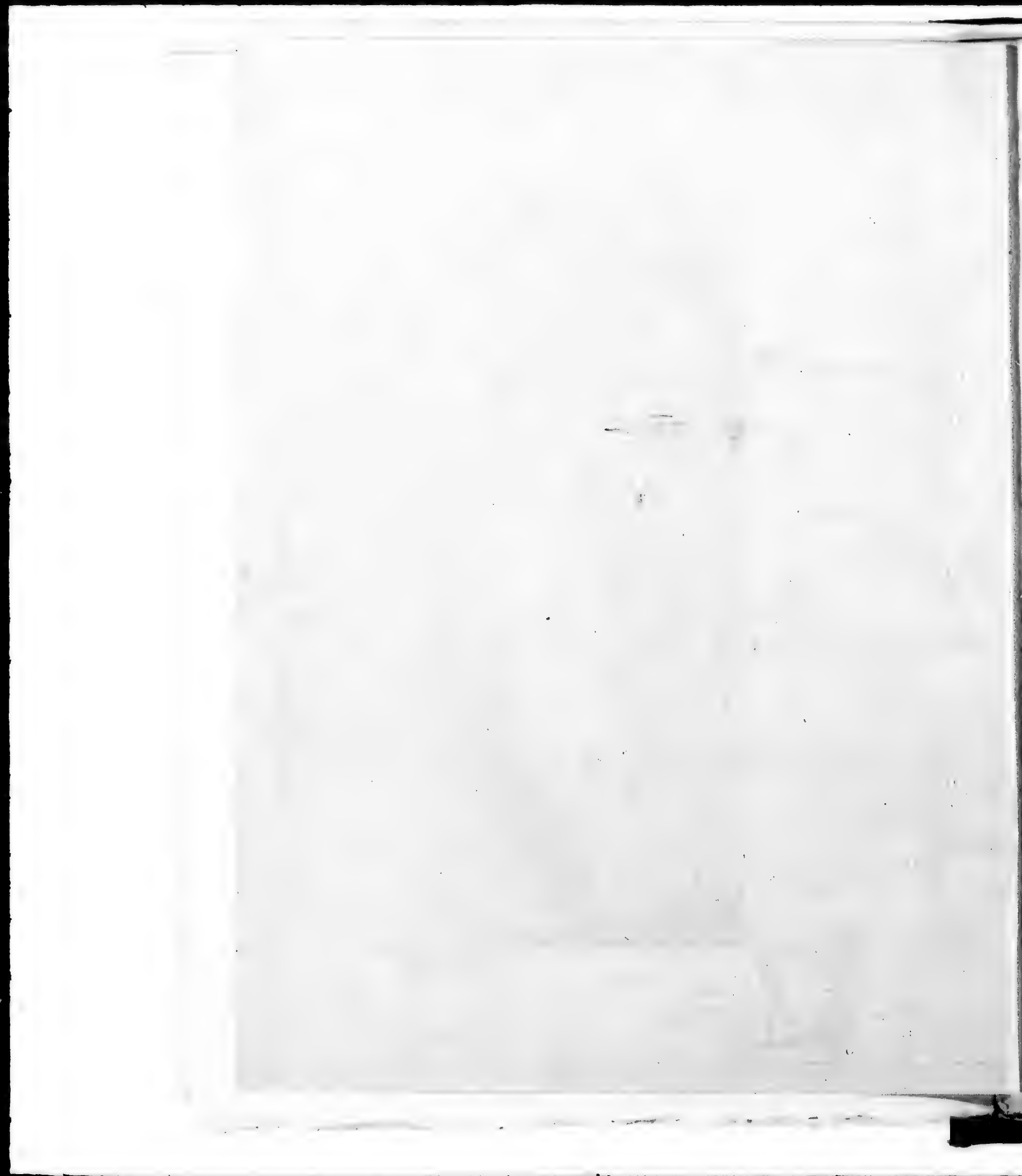
FIRST ENGAGEMENT 1 The Road. 2 French & Indians. 3 Hendrick on Horseback. 4 Provincials. 5 Mohawks



*A Plan of
 Lyman's
 now called
 Fort Edward*



*A Plan of
 Fort
 William Henry*



would not join in the attack, and as they were the oldest, the rest of the Indians would be obliged to follow their example. They gave as their reason that they "had resolved not to act against the English on their own territory; but if the General would lead them against the English camp at Lake St. Sacrament, which was undoubtedly on French soil, they would follow him there." Accordingly, yielding to the whim of their Indian allies, always loath to face the cannon of a fort, the French moved on toward the Lake. After marching some hours a prisoner was taken who stated that General Johnson had heard of the contemplated attack on Fort Lyman, and had detached one thousand men who were on their way to reinforce it. Dieskau at once ordered the Canadians to move forward about three hundred paces on the right, and there to lie flat on the ground. He ordered the Indians forward to take a similar position on the left, holding back the French regulars in the centre. No gun was to be fired until the English had reached the end of the *cul de sac* and then the volley from the French in front was to be supplemented by the fire of the Indians and Canadians on either flank, who were to close up the rear, leaving no escape for the entrapped English.

General Johnson's forces in the camp on the Lake, consisted of about three thousand provincials and two hundred and fifty Indians. Early in the morning of the eighth of September a Council of war was called, rumors having reached the camp of the proposed attack on Fort Lyman. It was not known exactly where the French were, but it was proposed to send a force of five hundred men to the assistance of the Fort. Hendrick was consulted and replied: "If they are to fight they are too few, if to be killed they are too

many." The number was doubled. General Johnson then proposed to divide the forces into three parties. Hendrick thereupon picked up several arrows, and handing one of them to General Johnson, asked him to break it. This he did readily. Hendrick then put three arrows together and handed them to General Johnson, saying, "Put them together and you can't break them; take them one by one and you will break them easily." Hendrick's argument was convincing.

Colonel Ephraim Williams was placed in command of the troops and they set out in two divisions, Colonel Williams leading the first, Lieutenant Colonel Whiting the second. King Hendrick on horseback at the head of a band of two hundred and fifty Mohawks, preceded the provincials.

They proceeded to Rocky Brook, where the French and Indians lay in ambush awaiting them. Knowing nothing of the change of plans of the French, whom they supposed near Fort Lyman, they sent out no scouts, but marched directly into the death trap. An accident only saved them. Some of the Senecas, with the French forces, espieing their Mohawk brethren fired their muskets into the air as a warning of the ambuscade. Then the war-whoop sounded, followed by the discharge of musketry from behind rocks and trees. Colonel Williams at once spread out the men on the hill to the right, and took his position on the rock on which now rests his monument. He soon fell, and almost at the same time Hendrick's horse was shot from under him, and being unwieldly he could not recover himself, and was stabbed to death with a bayonet.

Lieutenant-Colonel Whiting succeeded to the command. He saw the danger of his men and immediately ordered a retreat, which he conducted so skilfully that



he saved the greater part of his force. The noise of the firing was heard at Lake George, and General Johnson despatching Lieutenant-Colonel Cole with three hundred men to support and protect the retreat, set to work with the utmost vigor with all his remaining forces to construct defences for his camp, preparing a breastwork of felled trees and wagons, and hauling up and placing in position such cannon as he had to cover the river road and approaches.

It had been Dieskau's purpose to rush forward and enter the camp with the fugitives; but the Iroquois took possession of a rising ground and remained inactive. The other Indians also halted, and a few shots from the cannon soon drove them all to cover in the swamps at either side, and left the French Commander and his veteran regulars unsupported. As the regulars advanced, they halted suddenly about one hundred and fifty yards from the breastworks, trying to call the Indians to their aid. Failing in this, they again advanced, firing by platoons.

Early in the battle, General Johnson received a wound in the thigh, and retired to his tent, the command then devolving upon General Lyman, who behaved with great bravery.

The fire from the French made but little impression, while the artillery under the command of Captain Eyre, played upon them with great effect. Dieskau, finding it impossible to break the centre, moved to the right, and attacked the regiments under Colonels Ruggles, Williams and Titcomb. The three regiments resisted the attack resolutely and maintained a hot fire upon the enemy. At four o'clock in the afternoon, about seven hours after the attack in the morning, the Colonial troops, inspired by the thought that victory

was theirs, jumped over the breastworks with their Indian allies, and charged upon the French, who precipitately retreated, leaving most of their regular troops dead upon the field. Some prisoners were taken by the Colonials, including Baron Dieskau, who had been wounded. He was taken to General Johnson's tent, where only the General's great influence prevented his being seized by the Indians to expiate with fire the deaths of King Hendrick and the other Mohawk Chiefs.

Colonel Blanchard, at Fort Lyman, having heard the firing, despatched two hundred and fifty men of the New Hampshire and New York regiments, under Captain Maginness, to the assistance of General Johnson. Arriving at the place of the morning conflict, they came upon the enemy's abandoned baggage lying in the road, and advancing, soon caught sight of the Canadians and Indians, about three hundred in number, sitting by Rocky Brook, refreshing themselves from their packs. They fell upon them furiously, and soon few were left to tell the tale. The number of the slain was very great. Their bodies were thrown into the pond, which became so tinged with blood, that it was thereafter known as "Bloody Pond."

The Battle of Lake George, comprising three engagements, was thus victoriously ended. General Johnson, in his official reports, estimates the loss of the French at more than five hundred. It included La Gardeur de St. Pierre, who had defeated Washington on the Ohio the preceding year. The Colonial troops lost two hundred and sixty-two, besides officers and thirty-eight Indians. In addition to Colonel Williams and King Hendrick, Colonel Titcomb, Major Ashley, Captains Keyes, Porter, Ingersoll, and twelve others were

slain. Captain Maginness, too, died of his wounds two days after in camp.

The importance of this victory cannot be over-estimated. It came like a burst of sunshine through the clouds of defeat and disaster, which had overhung the colonists, and inspired them with the zeal and energy which drove the French power and dominion from the country. It prevented the French from gaining possession of the waterways, and so controlling the natural line of travel from New York to Canada and the Ohio region, by way of the Great Lake System.

It was the first great and successful battle fought wholly by the provincial troops, and the most important fought on New York soil prior to the Revolution. It taught the farmer soldiers their power when pitted against the soldiers of the Old World, and gave them the confidence in themselves, which served them so well in the later conflict for Independence.



Returns of the Killed, Wounded and Missing, after the Engagement in the Morning of the Subsequent Attack on the Camp between the Colony Provincial Troops under the Command of Major General Johnson & the French Regulars, Canadians and Indians under the Command (of) the Baron de Dieskau, Commander-in-Chief of the French King's Troops in Canada.

Major General Johnson, wounded in the hip.

	Killed.	Wounded.	Miss'g.
1. Massachusetts Reg.			
Commanded by			
Col. Tim. Ruggles.			
Cap't Solomon Keys ?	:		
Lieut. Nathan Gilbert	:		
Lieut. Joshua Williams	:	5	
Ensign John Tindell	:		
Ensign Joseph Brintnall	:		
Lieut. Thompson		1	
13 Non Commiss'd officers			
& 15 private men			28
2 Massachusetts Reg't			
Commanded by			
Col. Moses Titcomb			
Col. Moses Titcomb	1		
Lieut. (no name given)	1		
1 Sergt. & 6 Privates	7		
Major Nicholls		1	
2 Lieuts. & 1 Ensign		3	
Privates		23	
2 Sergt's, 3 Corp's	1		
Drum'r & 19 Privates			25

	Killed.	Wounded.	Miss'g.
3 Massachusetts Reg't			
Commanded by			
Col. Eph'm Williams			
Col. Eph. Williams	1		
Major Noah Ashley	1		
Capt. Moses Porter	1		
Capt. Ingersole	1		
Lieut. Simon Cobb	1		
Lieut. Dan'l Pomroy	1		
Lieut. Nath'l Burt	1		
Ensign John Stratton	1		
Ensign Reuben Wait	1		
Serg'ts, Corp'ls & Privates	32		
Cpts. Simon Davis &			
Elisha Hawley		2	
Ensign Josiah Williams		1	
Serg'ts, Corp'ls & Privates		23	
Missing			3
1 Connecticut Reg't			
Commanded by			
Major Gen'l Lyman.			
Lieut. James Jones	1		
Serg'ts, Corp'ls, Drum's &			
Privates	8		
Serg'ts & Private		3	
Privates			2
2 Reg't			
Commanded by			
Col. Goodrich.			
Lieut. Thos. Barnham	1		

	Killed.	Wounded.	Miss'g.
Serg'ts, Corp'ls, Drum's & Privates	28		
I Lieut. Ruggles		1	
Privates		15	
 Rhode Island Reg't			
4 Serg'ts, 2 Corp'ls & 14 Privates	20		
Privates		6	
Missing			1
 3 Connecticut Comp'l (?) of New York Reg't.			
Privates	7		
do.		1	
do.			3
Total	120	80	62

"Of the British Allied Indians killed and missing among whom is Hendrick the Great Mohock Sachem & another great Sachem of the said Castle Killed in all 32—Wounded 12. The upper Mohock Castle sustained the Greatest loss many chief Warriors were killed & others wounded. Capt. Farrell, Capt. Stoddert, Capt. Magin and Capt. Stevens Indian Officers all killed in the Morning Engagement.

In the Engagement, toward the evening between the Detachm't of the New Hampshire & New York Reg'ts from the Camp at the Great Carrying Place & the Canadians & Indians from the best

account yet obtained 2 killed, 11 wounded & 5 missing. The brave Capt. Maginis who commanded this party died two days after of his wounds in this Camp.

The French General the Baron de Dieskau taken prisoner & very badly wounded. His Aid-de-Camp surrendered himself the same night. The Baron says his Major General was killed, as was Mons'r St. Pierre who commanded the Indians, many other of the Enemies Chief Officers reported by the Prisoners to be either killed or wounded.

P(eter) W(raxall)
A De Camp to Gen'l Johnson.

(Endorsed.)

Returns of the Killed, Wounded & Missing of the Troops encamped at Lake George after the Actions on the 8 Sept., 1755.

(Endorsed again.)

Returns of the Killed, Wounded & Missing in the Provincial Troops under the Command of Major Gen'l Johnson after the Engagement of the Morning and the Subsequent attack on the Camp the 8 Sept. 1755 between the said Troops & the French Regulars, the Canadians & Indians under the Command of Mons'r Le Baron de Dieskau General & Commander in Chief of the French King's Troops in Canada.

